

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 CU-02 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 AGR-05

OES-03 COME-00 ACDA-05 /098 W

----- 011949

R 121305Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5287

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA POUCH

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BY, TX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO BURUNDI

1. DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BURUNDI ON MARCH 05 TO 8, TANZANIAN FONMIN IBRAHIM KADUMA MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH BURUNDI FONMIN MELCHIOR BWAKIREA AND PRESIDEN MICOMBERO, ATTENDED BURUNDI ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONIES ON MARCH 06, AND HAD BOTH A BILATERAL AND A PAN-AFRICAN TOUR D'HORIZON.

2. THE ANNOUNCED AGENDA FOR THE VISIT COVERED PUTTING PAST AGREEMENTS INTO OPERATION (ON TRADE, TOURISM, AND TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC-CULTURAL COOPERATION); STARTING WORK ON PROJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE PAST (TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRICITY GENERATION, AND KAGERA BASIN DEVELOPMENT); AND CONSIDERING NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, IN MALAGARIZI VALLEY DEVELOPMENT (ON BURUNDI'S SOUTHERN BORDER), IN ERADICATION OF THE TSE-TSE FLY IN FRONTIER ZONES, AND IN ORGANIZATION OF FISHING ON LAKE TANGANYIKA.

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3. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE GAVE NO SPECIFICS ON AGREEMENTS OR IMPLEMENTATION, OTHER THAN TO REFER TO "CONCRETE PROPOSALS" FOR EFFECTUATING PAST ACCORDS. IT ADDED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE ON CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT COMPANY ON LAKE TANGANYIKA, ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR THE FASTER SHIPMENT OF GOODS THROUGH TANZANIA TO AND FROM BUJUMBURA, ON UPGRADING THE ROADS LINKING THE TWO COUNTRIES, ON THE PROBLEMS OF POST AND RAILROAD TARIFFS, ON THE START OF THE KAGERA BASIN PROJECT, AND ON PROSPECTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PROJECTS.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE'S SECTION ON FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATED BURUNDI QUITE FULLY WITH TANZANIA'S POSITION ON ALMOST ALL AFRICAN QUESTIONS. THE TWO COUNTRIES PRAISED MOZAMBIQUE FOR CLOSING ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, AND CALLED ON ALL COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT MOZAMBIQUE AND INTENSIFY SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. THEY MADE THE RITUAL DENUNCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR ITS APARTHEID SYSTEM, REJECTED SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORTS IN NAMIBIA TO JUSTIFY CONSULTATIONS WITH ANY NATIVE REPRESENTATIVES OTHER THAN SWAPO, AND DEMANDED SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY. THEY RECOGNIZED THE POLISARIO FRONT AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE (BUT DID NOT MENTION THE SAHAROUI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, WHICH BURUNDI HAS RECOGNIZED). THEY APPEALED TO FRANCE TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE DJIBOUTI PROBLEM WHILE GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO THE TERRITORY, AND REPEATED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE OAU POSITION ON THE COMORO ISLANDS.

5. COMMENT: THE VISIT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF A PRONOUNCED WARMING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, AS BURUNDI HAS TAKEN A SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVIST STANCE IN ITS ALIGNMENT WITH THE RADICAL OAU STATES. THE ANIMOSITIES PROVOKED BY BURUNDI'S PAST INTERNAL STRIFE, THE PERIODIC POURING OF REFUGEES INTO TANZANIA, AND THE FRICTIONS FROM BURUNDI'S OCCASIONAL SECURITY FORCE SALLIES ACROSS THE BORDER SEEM TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BURIED, AT LEAST FOR NOW. BURUNDI MOST CERTAINLY HAS A VITAL INTEREST IN BETTER RELATIONS THAT NOT ONLY GUARANTEE ITS TRANSPORT LIFELINE THROUGH TANZANIA BUT ALSO LAY THE BASIS FOR JOINT HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR ITS FUTURE MINERALS EXPLOITATION. WHILE BURUNDI PROBABLY DOES NOT WISH, NOR DARE, TO CUT ITSELF OFF TOTALLY FROM ZAIRE, ITS IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR TO THE WEST, IT APPEARS QUITE WILLING,

EVEN BRAZENLY SO, TO IGNORE ITS PROMISES TO COORDINATE
FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN
WITHIN THE ZAIRE/RWANDA/BURUNDI TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT.
ENCOURAGED BY THE HAPPY RESULTS OF HIS ACTION AROUND LAST
CHRISTMAS TO GIVE EARLY SUPPORT TO THE MPLA IN
DEFIANCE OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S WISHES, PRESIDENT
MICOMBERO IS NOW BECOMING VERY SELF CONFIDENT OF HIS
INTUITION AND IS ENJOYING HIS FLING INTO "PROGRESSIVIST"
DIPLOMACY, BY WHICH HE IS TRYING TO BUILD AN IMAGE OF
BURUNDI AS A FRONT RANK VERBAL FIGHTER FOR THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS IN BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.
MARK

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